

Preface

Neighborhood Identity and Local Solutions

"It's really just about people," was the response of one workshop participant during an early discussion on neighborhood issues and concerns. It is simply about their views, their concerns, their opinions—it is about their quality of life, as *they* would define it. For the planners who have participated in this process, it has been about listening and trying as best to understand those perspectives...

As the initial public visioning process neared completion, City and County planning staff began grappling with how to proceed with the next phase of the larger planning initiative. There was always one basic question in mind, "How do we begin to translate the principles and future development framework of the *Final Report* into something tangible to the people who live and are vested in the Southwest Area? How do we also encourage future development to create a stronger sense of neighborhood and community identity?" The answer lay in the maps themselves—the map of existing neighborhoods. The Southwest Planning Area is neighborhoods...neighborhoods of many styles, patterns, people, but all with a common vision; a vision of a diverse and unique place that has become the inclusive community that it is.

The planning process that was developed, and its results, is about local solutions. The Southwest Planning Area possesses many unique planning challenges and issues. The neighborhood plans that have been developed by the people who live there, work there, who own land there, have collaborated together to create their own unique solutions to those issues facing their neighborhoods. They worked to form a clear understanding of what exactly is their neighborhood, what makes it special or in some cases, not so special, and what could that neighborhood become in the future utilizing the tools described in the *Southwest Santa Fe City/County Master Planning Initiative Final Report*. The greatest single element of the master plan is not necessarily the outputs; it is the public process itself.

The Southwest Santa Fe Community Area Master Plan is a collection of those neighborhood solutions and an expression of their realized and future identity.